

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

1. (Original) A method for call conferencing, comprising:
detecting a first access to a conference bridge operable to support a conference call;
receiving a pass code from the first access; and
securing the conference bridge using the pass code received from the first access by
allowing a second access to the conference bridge, the second access based at least partially on
the pass code from the first access.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pass code
comprises a first pass code; and
further comprising allowing the second access to continue based at least partially on at
~~least one of the first pass code and~~ a second pass code, wherein the second pass code may or may
not equal the first pass code.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, further comprising
receiving the second pass code from the first access during the conference call.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving the pass code comprises:

prompting a participant to identify whether the conference bridge is to be secured; and
receiving the pass code in response to the participant indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the second access is based at least partially on the pass code from the first access when the conference bridge is secured.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying the first access as being associated with a chairperson of the conference call; and
wherein receiving the pass code comprises receiving the pass code from the first access in response to determining that the first access is associated with the chairperson.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein allowing the second access to the conference bridge comprises:

prompting a participant for the pass code;
receiving an identification of one or more depressed numeric buttons on a communication device associated with the participant; and
determining whether the one or more identified numeric buttons represents a numeric sequence associated with the pass code.

8. (Original) An apparatus for call conferencing, comprising:

one or more ports operable to receive at least one channel of a plurality of channels for a conference call; and

one or more processors collectively operable to:

detect a first access to a conference bridge operable to support the conference call;

receive a pass code from the first access; and

secure the conference bridge using the pass code received from the first access by

allowing a second access to the conference bridge, the second access based at least partially on

the pass code from the first access.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the pass code
comprises a first pass code; and

the one or more processors are further collectively operable to allow the second access to
continue based at least partially on ~~at least one of the first pass code and~~ a second pass code,
wherein the second pass code may or may not equal the first pass code.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the one or more
processors are further collectively operable to receive the second pass code from the first access
during the conference call.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the one or more processors are collectively operable to receive the pass code by:
- prompting a participant to identify whether the conference bridge is to be secured; and
- receiving the pass code in response to the participant indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured.
12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the second access is based at least partially on the pass code from the first access when the conference bridge is secured.
13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the one or more processors are further collectively operable to authenticate the first and second accesses.
14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the pass code comprises a numeric code.

15. (Original) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and operable to be executed by a processor, the computer program comprising computer readable program code for:

detecting a first access to a conference bridge operable to support a conference call;

receiving a pass code from the first access; and

securing the conference bridge using the pass code received from the first access by allowing a second access to the conference bridge, the second access based at least partially on the pass code from the first access.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 15, wherein the pass code comprises a first pass code; and

further comprising computer readable program code for allowing the second access to continue based at least partially on ~~at least one of the first pass code and a second pass code,~~
wherein the second pass code may or may not equal the first pass code.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 16, further comprising computer readable program code for receiving the second pass code from the first access during the conference call.

18. (Original) The computer program of Claim 15, wherein the computer readable program code for receiving the pass code comprises computer readable program code for:

prompting a participant to identify whether the conference bridge is to be secured; and
receiving the pass code in response to the participant indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured.

19. (Original) The computer program of Claim 18, wherein the second access is based at least partially on the pass code from the first access when the conference bridge is secured.

20. (Original) The computer program of Claim 15, further comprising computer readable program code for identifying the first access as being associated with a chairperson of the conference call.

21. (Original) The computer program of Claim 15, wherein the computer readable program code for allowing the second access to the conference bridge comprises computer readable program code for:

prompting a participant for the pass code;

receiving an identification of one or more depressed numeric buttons on a communication device associated with the participant; and

determining whether the one or more identified numeric buttons represents a numeric sequence associated with the pass code.